Public Health

Efficacious treatment of leprosy in its various stages.

* 390 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement showing the various medical treatments found most efficacious in curing or controlling the disease of leprosy in its various stages in the several Leper Settlements, hospitals, and asylums either under Government control or aided by Government, and

(ii) to state—

(a) what steps Government are taking for special research in tracing the most efficacious treatment of leprosy;

(b) whether they have received information or read about the effective treatment of leprosy by means of the juice of the caju fruit or the liquor or essence extracted from caju juice in Goa and Ceylon; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken steps or are taking steps to try the efficiency of this treatment?

A.—(i) At present the drug which has been found most efficacious in the treatment of leprosy is Hydnocarpus oil. Its derivatives are also extensively used in the several leper settlements, hospitals and asylums in this Presidency.

(ii) (a) Several other drugs are at present being tested by medical officers in charge of leper asylums and the results are reported to be promising.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) So far as information is available, it has not been tried in any of the leper institutions in this Presidency.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"With reference to (ii) (a), may I enquire what are the other drugs that are used by the medical officers?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"Notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"Are there any drugs which are used at all here?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"The answer is given that they are using one drug."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"What are the drugs that are being tested?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"Notice."

Agriculture

Selection of students for admission in the Agricultural College at Coimbatore.

*391 Q.—Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the affiliation of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore with the University has debarred the real agricultural and cultivating classes from sending their boys for agricultural study;

(b) the names and profession of the families of the students selected for admission into the college for the last three years 1925—1928;